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Probationers, sex offenders targeted by jail search program

Associated Press

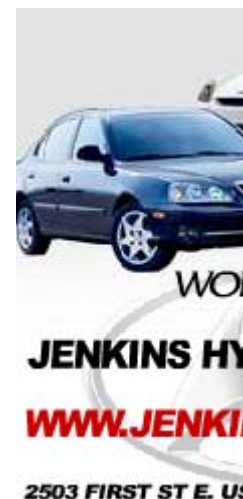
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A computerized inmate locator system is being put to new use by notifying state prison and law enforcement agencies whenever a probationer or previously convicted sex offender is booked into a county jail.

The JusticeXchange is particularly helpful in identifying absconders - those who have failed to keep authorities informed of their whereabouts - if they get arrested again, officials said Tuesday.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement in recent weeks downloaded the names and other details on almost 39,000 people convicted of sex crimes and about 200,000 individuals, who are on probation or parole into the computer system launched last year to keep track of all inmates housed at participating county jails.

"This new feature will help the entire criminal justice system keep better tabs on convicted sex offenders," FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey said in a statement Tuesday.

Corrections Secretary James McDonough said the program will help make communities safer.



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